

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04915 01 OF 02 101952Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 L-03 H-01 PM-05
PA-01 EB-08 /060 W
-----076418 102020Z /61
R 101939Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7902

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PANAMA 04915

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, EWWT, PORG, PN
SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION

REF: PANAMA 03365
BEGIN SUMMARY: THOUGH WE EXPECT NO FORMAL LEGISLATION
BEFORE NOVEMBER, PANAMA'S IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY IS
SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE. A CENTRAL "PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY"
WILL PROBABLY BE HEADED BY A PROMINENT GOVERNMENT
LEADER; ITS BOARD IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE INFLUENTIAL.
IF IT HAS AS STRONG A LEADERSHIP AS WE EXPECT, THIS
AUTHORITY WILL BE CRUCIAL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
CARRYING OUT OF CANAL POLICY. MEANWHILE, CONSULTATION
AND JOINT PLANNING BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE U.S. IS
GOING SLOWLY. END SUMMARY.

1. LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S
THINKING ABOUT TREATY IMPLEMENTATION ORGANIZATION
IS MATURING. THOUGH THE LAW OR LAWS ESTABLISHING THE
MACHINERY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE PROMULGATED BEFORE
NOVEMBER, THE MACHINERY ITSELF IS BEING CONSTRUCTED
AND IS BEGINNING TO FUNCTION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04915 01 OF 02 101952Z

2. AT THE CENTER OF PANAMANIAN IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY
WILL BE THE "PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY." THIS NEW AGENCY'S
FUNCTIONS ARE SPELLED OUT IN "NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
RECUPERATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE", WHICH WAS
PUBLISHED IN JUNE BY THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC POLICY. (COPIES OF THE 168-PAGE DOCUMENT

HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO ARA/PAN. PANCANAL IS TRANSLATING IT, AND WE WILL FORWARD THE TRANSLATION AS SOON AS WE HAVE A COPY, PROBABLY WITHIN A FEW DAYS.)

3. THE AUTHORITY WILL HAVE BROAD RESPONSIBILITIES. IT WILL TAKE OVER CANAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE YEAR 2000. IN THE MEANTIME IT WILL:

A. GIVE THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ADVICE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR SETTING POLICY AND REGULATIONS;

B. SERVE AS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES;

C. BE THE CUSTODIAN OF OR ADMINISTER ACTIVITIES, TERRITORIES AND INSTALLATIONS WHICH REVERT TO PANAMA IN THE ZONE, AS WELL AS IN THE CANAL BASIN OUTSIDE THE ZONE, AS PROVIDED BY LAW;
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

D. PROMOTE, ADMINISTER OR PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC-SERVICE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOP DECISIONS;

E. PROMOTE THE RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ZONE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 04915 01 OF 02 101952Z

AND BASIN;

F. PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF FLORA, FAUNA AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE ZONE AND THE BASIN, IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL, TOURIST AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES;

G. GRANT LICENSES FOR THE USE OF LANDS, WATERS, INSTALLATIONS, ETC.;

H. ADVISE AND ASSIST THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CANAL COMMISSION;

I. TRANSMIT POLICY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PANAMANIAN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS;

J. ESTABLISH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOP'S POLICIES, THE POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE VARIOUS BODIES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TREATIES.

4. WE BELIEVE THE AUTHORITY WILL BE HEADED BY A

PERSON OF ESTABLISHED REPUTATION. AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CREDIBLY MENTIONED BY INSIDERS ARE PRESIDENT LAKAS, PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA, IHRE DIRECTOR EDWIN FABREGA, AMBASSADOR GABRIEL LEWIS AND CERRO COLORADO CORP. PRESIDENT RODRIGO "RORY" GONZALEZ. THE PLANNING NOW IS TO GIVE THE AUTHORITY A BOARD OF EIGHT TO TEN MEMBERS -- ALL OR MOST OF WHOM WOULD HAVE AN ESTABLISHED REPUTATION FOR POLITICAL INFLUENCE OR TECHNICAL CAPACITY. AMONG THE NAMES MENTIONED ARE VICE PRESIDENT GONZALEZ, BARLETTA, LEWIS,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04915 02 OF 02 101958Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 L-03 H-01 PM-05

PA-01 EB-08 /060 W

-----076512 102017Z /61

R 101939Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7903

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PANAMA 04915

STADIS//////////

ROBERTY HEURTEMATTE, PORT DIRECTOR ARNOLDO CANO, LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONER BALBINO MORENO AND RORY GONZALEZ.

5. THE AUTHORITY WOULD ALSO HAVE A SECRETARIAT OF PERHAPS HALF A DOZEN OFFICIALS. AT ITS CORE WOULD BE AUGUSTO ZAMBRANO, FLAVIO VELASQUEZ AND OMAR JAEN-- ALL MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL U.S.-PANAMANIAN WORKING GROUP. THE AUTHORITY WOULD ALSO HAVE A NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED OFFICES, THOUGH THE PLANNING NOW IS TO DRAW HEAVILY ON EXISTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE.

6. UNDER THE AUTHORITY THERE WOULD BE EIGHT WORKING GROUPS OR COMMITTEES. THEY WOULD BE COMPOSED OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN THE FIELDS CONCERNED, PLUS A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT IN MOST CASES. AS NOW PLANNED THERE WOULD BE EIGHT OF THESE WORKING GROUPS: 1) ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS AND WATERS (SURVEYING, LICENSES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS); 2) ADMINISTRATION OF ENTERPRISES

(PORTS, HOUSING, CANAL ADMINISTRATION, ETC.); 3) PUBLIC SERVICES; 4) LABOR AFFAIRS; 5) DEFENSE AND SECURITY (JOINT DEFENSE, MILITARY COORDINATION, POLICE); 6) BASIN AND ENVIRONMENT (INCLUDING NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04915 02 OF 02 101958Z

PARKS); 7) ORGANIZATION (STATE ENTERPRISES, CANAL AUTHORITY); AND 8) PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING SEA-LEVEL CANAL).

7. EACH OF THESE GROUPS WOULD HAVE BETWEEN TWO AND FIFTEEN SUB-COMMITTEES, WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD BE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS IN THE APPROPRIATE FORUMS. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, HOWEVER, EXACTLY HOW THIS INTERNAL GOP ORGANIZATION WILL FIT INTO THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO WITH PANCANAL.

8. EACH OF THE ROUGHLY FORTY SUB-COMMITTEES WOULD HAVE AN ADVISORY BOARD (PRIMARILY NON-GOVERNMENTAL) OF ABOUT TEN PERSONS. AT A PUBLIC MEETING JULY 6 THE GOVERNMENT MET WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF 49 RELIGIOUS, CIVIC, LABOR, PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS AND OTHER GROUPS AND ASKED THEM TO SUGGEST NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD SERVE ON THESE ADVISORY BOARDS. THE GOVERNMENT HOPES, THROUGH THESE BOARDS TO OBTAIN THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON POLICY QUESTIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME TO MARSHAL PUBLIC SUPPORT BEHIND ITS IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS.

9. COMMENT: DESPITE--PROBABLY PARTLY BECAUSE OF-- THESE PLANNING EFFORTS BY PANAMA, BILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTATION AND PLANNING IS MOVING VERY SLOWLY SO FAR. THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS, WHICH WERE ALMOST WEEKLY UNTIL JUST BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT, HAVE NOT BEEN HELD RECENTLY, AT PANAMA'S REQUEST. EVEN THE MEETINGS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE HAVE, FOR THE MOST PART, BEEN RATHER PRO FORMA PRESENTATIONS OF BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT PANCANAL OPERATIONS. NOW THAT THE GOP FEELS SOMEWHAT BETTER ORGANIZED INTERNALLY, WE EXPECT THAT MORE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 04915 02 OF 02 101958Z

-- PRIMARILY IN SMALL, RELATIVELY TECHNICAL GROUPS -- WILL BEGIN IN EARNEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE IN A PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD; AND THAT COULD CONTINUE TO SLOW DOWN IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING AND CONSULTATION.

10. NOTE. THIS MESSAGE IS MARKED STADIS TO OBVIATE
COORDINATING ON THE ISTHMUS. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION
TO ANY USE OF IT IN DEALINGS WITH OTHER AGENCIES.
MOORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, CONTINGENCY PLANNING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA04915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780282-0601
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780673/aaaackri.tel
Line Count: 228
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09afb8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 PANAMA 3365
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2405203
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR TREATY IMPLEMENTATION
TAGS: PGOV, EWWT, PORG, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09afb8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014